THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the responsibility of monitoring and control of pollution is primarily entrusted to the State Pollution Control Boards. The concerned State Pollution Control Boards in the North-Eastern Region are required to take necessary action for prevention and control of pollution. The North-Eastern State Pollution Control Boards have taken up the following programmes for assessment and for prevention and control of pollution:

(1) Inventorization of industries and assessing pollution potential from the industries.

(2) Assessment of water quality of rivers and lakes.

(3) Assessment of vehicular pollution and assessment of ambient air quality.

(4) Proper collection, transportation and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

(5) Preparation of zoning atlas for siting of industries taking environmental factors into consideration.

(b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Central Pollution Control Board have been providing necessary financial and technical assistance to the North-Eastern State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards for prevention and control of pollution. Approximate figures regarding financial assistance provided to the States and State Pollution Control Boards located in the North-Eastern region during the last couple of years are as under:

1. Arunachal Pradesh	Rs.	1.00 lakh
2. Assam	Rs.	38.05 lakhs
3. Manipur	Rs.	324.10 lakhs
4. Meghalaya	Rs.	41.60 lakhs
5. Mizoram	Rs.	28.50 lakhs
6. Nagaland	Rs.	1.00 lakh
7. Sikkim	Rs.	9.31 lakhs
8. Tripura	Rs.	19.72 lakhs

(c) All the 25 States of the Union of India have set up their respective State Pollution Control Board.

Census of tiger population

4147. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quadrennial exercise to track down tigers and cause a census of population of the endangered wild cats has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the latest assessment of population of tigers, lions and other wild cats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far figures of estimation of tiger and panther population, made in 1997, has been received from 11 States only. These figures are given in the Statement (*See* below). The figures are yet to be reviewed by the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

For lions, the estimation is conducted once every five years. The population of lion as per the 1995 estimation was 304.

Statement

All India Tiger/Leopard Population — 1997

S.No.	Name of the State	Tiger	Leopard
1.	Rajasthan	58	474
2.	Gujarat	1	832
3.	Andhra Pradesh	171	138

S.No.	Name of the State	Tiger	Leopard
4.	Assam	458	N.A.
5.	257	431	
KcMaharashtra			
6.	Madhya Pradesh	927	1851
7.	West Bengal	361	N.A.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	475	1412
9.	Bihar*	103	N.A.
10.	Mizoram	12	28
11.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	15

* Estimation was not carried out in the entire State.

Pressure on coral reefs

4148. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zoological Survey of India has revealed the tremendous pressure on coral reefs in the country due to human activities, coral mining and sand mining in coral areas;

(b) if so, the areas affected by these activities; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) During the course of its usual survey work of the coral reef areas for fauna, the Zoological Survey of India has observed activities of coral mining and sand mining in such areas.

(c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (1991) issued by Govt. of India under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prohibits the use of corals and sands from the beaches and coastal water for construction and other purposes. Dredging and underwater blasting in and around coral formations is also prohibited. Collection and destruction of corals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is banned under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Fisheries Regulation read with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Shell Fishing Rules, 1978. In addition to these regulatory measures, financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Govt. of Gujarat, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Administration for implementation of management action plans for conservation and management of coral reefs under the scheme entitled Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs. Global Environment Facility (GEF) has agreed to extend financial assistance to the tune of US $ 345,000 to develop a Management Plan for selected sites of coral reefs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

"Projects pending in Andhra Pradesh for environmental clearance"

4149. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether talks were held with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on the pending projects of the State for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position of environmental clearance to Tail Pond Dam at Nagarjuna Sagar and Velugonda project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The purposes for Tail Pond Dam at Nagarjuna Sagar is under consideration. Velugonda project has not been received for environmental clearance in the Ministry.